



NOW NEWS

Volume 15

December 1977

No. 4

QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

MARCH

JUNE

SEPTEMBER

DECEMBER

The objective of the Numismatists Of Wisconsin shall be to encourage and promote interest in numismatics, to cultivate friendly relations between Wisconsin coin collectors and the coin clubs of Wisconsin, as well as collectors of other states, and to encourage and assist new collectors and coin clubs. All resources shall be used to further the above objectives.

LJ

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Mid November in Wisconsin signals not only the annual invasion by red clad people in quest of the crafty deer, but also the time to get the numismatic ball rolling, again. The summer and early Fall seasons seem to offer so much to ones fancy, that the serious work of running an organization tends to be pushed in some dark corner. Of this I am guilty, however, seasonal thoughts have provided some new input, and as a result of the Board of Governors meeting in Milwaukee the end of September, N.O.W. will be offering the following programs and projects to the membership in the rapidly approaching new year.

Again in 1978, some lucky N.O.W. member will be afforded the opportunity to travel to Colorado Springs to attend the annual study seminar of the A.N.A. The Wisconsin Young Numismatist branch of N.O.W. will also again be offering a similar scholarship to some deserving member of the younger section of the fraternity.

1978 will see the second edition of the Wisconsin Club Publications Contest. In 1977, the creation of this project inspired two additional clubs in Wisconsin to issue a monthly Newsletter.

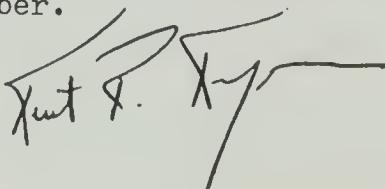
The 1978 N.O.W. Literary Award will be presented to the person who writes the finest article for the official organ of the Numismatists of Wisconsin, N.O.W. News. Editor Larry Spanbauer has recently reported that his article morgue is empty and that he would like additional material for a really big issue for the first quarter of 1978.

Exhibitors at our annual convention at Eau Claire will be competing for a full docket of awards including a special best-in-show award. Also, competition is expected to be keen for the Harold Prieve Memorial Award for the most educational display at the state convention.

A third edition of the Wisconsin Young Numismatists benefit auction is being planned for the Eau Claire conclave. The first two auctions have proved rather successful, with all proceeds going to the WYN Scholarship Fund.

In 1978, N.O.W. will again provide the membership with a special medalllic counterstamp for their collections. The topic for the counterstamp for the 1978 convention will be "Old Abe", the famous Civil War Eagle. Because of local sentiment of the topic, it is expected that this counterstamp will completely exhaust our existing supply of medals, so it is suggested that advance reservations be made with Cliff Mishler.

These are the highlights of the approaching year. A more complete fact sheet on all programs and projects will be mailed to the membership in December.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

In accordance with Article I, Section I of the current NOW By-Laws, I hereby issue a call for nominations of individuals to stand election as successors to the following offices:

- 1.) N.O.W. President
- 2.) N.O.W. Vice President
- 3.) N.O.W. Board Members (4)

whose terms will expire effective with the close of the 1978 annual meeting which will be held during the annual NOW Convention in Eau Claire, Wisconsin on Sunday May 7, 1978.

The individuals whose terms expire as of that meeting are: President Kurt R. Krueger, Vice President H.S. "Monte" Sherwin and Board Members A.P. Bertschy, Gordon Gill, Clifford Manthe, and Mike Segersin. The Board terms will be for three years, expiring in 1981.

Any individual who has been a member of the NOW for a minimum of one year may be nominated for one of the four (4) Board of Governor seats.

No member shall be eligible for election as president or vice-president unless he or she has been a member of the executive board for a minimum of one year and a NOW member for three (3) years.

The acceptance of nominations will close on March 1, 1978. All nominations must be submitted in writing and addressed to:

Richard Phelps, Sec.
Box 212
Sussex, Wisconsin 53089

Each and every member should exercise this key franchise of his or her membership. Failure to utilize this challenge is failure to impact your influence upon the direction of our organization.

Kurt R. Krueger, N.O.W. President

The end of another year is at hand which usually means that now is the time to reflect on the happenings of the past 365 days. The year of 1977 was an eventful one for members of the N.O.W. Upon looking over the 1977 issues of the N.O.W. News, the following events are recalled.

January The N.O.W. Board voted to accept the invitation of the Eau Claire Coin Club to host the 1978 State Convention.

February It was learned that there would be no public participation in this years U.S. Assay Commission. Five N.O.W. members were nominated for one of these seats. They were: Dan Harley, Jack Huggins, Neil Shafer, Clem Bailey, and Kurt Krueger.

March The spring coin show season begins in earnest. Coin shows sponsored by state clubs would keep the dealers busy almost every weekend until summer.

April The state coin show was held at the Brown County Areana in Green Bay. Mike Segersin was the show chairman and the Nicolet Coin Club was the host organization.

May Richard Yeoman night was held in conjunction with the Central States Numismatic Society Show held at the Red Carpet-Expo Center in Milwaukee.

June The Retail Coin Dealers Association held their annual show in St. Louis with Ray O. Lefman Chairman.

July Vern Vanderleest and Jeff Skrentney attend the American Numismatic Association Summer Seminar in Colorado Springs, Colorado as a result of two NOW scholarships.

August The annual A.N.A. Convention is held in Atlanta. Highlights included the election of two N.O.W. members to national posts. Grover Criswell was elected the 40th president of the organization while Kurt Krueger was elected to a seat on the board of governors.

September Larry Spanbauer offers a slide program dealing with the subject of counterfeit coins. Gerald Johnson releases a ten year book supplement entitled: "Trade Tokens of Wisconsin".

October Chet Krause and Krause Publications celebrate their 25th anniversary with a special issue of "Numismatic News".

November The counterstamp program for the 1977 convention metal closed on the first day of the month. A total of 114 counterstamped metals were sold.

December With this month being open, it gives you the opportunity to make the news and gives me the space to to wish all of you a very MERRY CHRISTMAS.

In the space remaining, I want to thank those who submitted the articles which help to make this a 28 page quarterly publication.

- 1.) Maids and Matrons on U.S. Money Arthur F. Giere
- 2.) In God We Trust Kurt R. Krueger
- 3.) The Assay Commission Question Clement Bailey
- 4.) Getting Their Two Cents In Harold Flartey
- 5.) Some Points To Consider When Buying Coins
..... Mark Ferguson
- 6.) Fare Tokens of the New York City Transit Authority
..... George Cuhaj
- 7.) Colorful Comments Clement Bailey
- 8.) The Early History of the Madison Coin Club
..... Gordon Gill



PANAMA-PACIFIC EXPOSITION. Silver half-dollars, gold dollars, gold quarter eagles and 2 types of \$50 gold coins were issued for San Francisco's Panama-Pacific Exposition celebrating the opening of the Panama Canal.

1977 NUMISMATISTS OF WISCONSIN CONVENTION COUNTERSTAMP PROGRAM

The final ordering period for the Numismatists of Wisconsin's special limited issue 1977 convention medal counterstamp program closed on November 1st. and the counterstamping die has been cancelled so that no more can be produced.

With this programs conclusion, final production figures for the issue can now be provided. The following listing enumerates all regular counterstamps executed on the 1976 Tank Cottage Bicentennial medals, along with a number of interesting "special" strikes of the counterstamp which were produced on other numismatic specimens during the convention on a masimum one for one basis for individuals who were required to first purchase specimens of the official counterstamp issue.

The quantities struck of the official counterstamp were:

- 69 - Mint quality bronze, one featuring a double struck counterstamp, and another bearing three counterstamp impressions on the reverse and one on the obverse.
- 24 - Proof quality bronze, one of which featured a slightly doubled counterstamp on the reverse and a single counterstamp on the obverse.
- 21 - Proof quality sterling silver.

The following "special" counterstamps were also produced:

UNITED STATES COINS

- 1. - 1965 quarter
- 1. - 1976 quarter
- 1. - 1945 half
- 1. - 1967 half
- 1. - 1976 half
- 1. - 1893 Columbian
- 1. - 1936 Wisconsin
- 1. - 1946-S B.T.W.
- 1. - 1952 Wash. Carver

- 1. - 1976 Proof Ike
- 1. - 1881-0 Morgan Dollar
- 1. - 1885-0 Morgan Dollar
- 1. - 1889 Morgan Dollar
- 1. - 1901-0 Morgan Dollar
- 2. - 1921 Morgan Dollars
- 1. - 1921-D Morgan Dollar
- 1. - 1922 Peace Dollar
- 1. - 1922-D Peace Dollar
- 1. - 1923 Peace Dollar

FOREIGN COINS

- 1.- 1943 Australian Penny
- 1.- 1964 Australian Penny
- 1.- 1967 Canadian Dollar
- 1.- 1797 British Cartwheel
- 1.- 1689 Berman Reichs Thaler
- 1.- 1951 British Crown
- 1.- 1949 Mexican Onza
- 1.- 1843 New Brunswick Penny
- 1.- 1857 Bank of Upper Canada Penny
- 1.- 1976 South Africa Krugerrand Gold



EXOMUMIA

- 2.- 1965 N.O.W. Green Bay Medal, Oride
- 1.- 1967 N.O.W. Milwaukee Medal, Oride
- 1.- 1977 C.S.N.S. Milwaukee Convention Badge
- 1.- 1892-1893 Columbian Exposition Medal
- 1.- 1934 Union Pacific Alcoa Medal
- 1.- 1967 Iola Mills Encased Cent
- 1.- Van Cott Store Card, Racine #11
- 1.- Merchants Exchange Hard Times Token
- 1.- Bartles & Maguire Oil Co., Milwaukee
- 1.- 1933 Santa Monica Breakwater, So-Called Dollar



BOOKS

- 6.- Embossed on 1977 Red Book covers, one of which had been signed prior to embossing.

TRIAL PIECE

- 1.- Impression in five pound lead ingot.



THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE MADISON COIN CLUB by: GORDON GILL

The Madison Coin Club was formed in 1932 but four or five years previous to that, the Reverend Fred Harris, a Methodist minister, and I used to meet in his office at the Methodist Hospital. Later on, a couple of other fellows joined us. When the club was organized in 1932, we met in various places around the city. We never had a notice in the local paper, just a nucleus of collectors who started to meet regularly. Coin collectors were few at this time, we didn't know anyone else who collected, and had trouble organizing. For years our club had only seven or eight members but as we became more organized, each member tried to get their friends to join.

Nobody was much interested in collecting coins, money was scarce and people had a more practical use for it. At that time, coin collecting was entirely different than it is today because 98% of the numismatists collected United States Large Cents. Today, these pieces have fallen by the wayside with few collectors showing much interest in them, whereas at that time everyone had a set or collection of these pieces. I can remember that about ten years later, that would be in the 1940's, we made a survey in our coin club and asked each member what he collected. At that time, only two out of about sixteen members were not collecting large cents and these two were concentrating on small cents, nickels and dimes.

There were very few people who collected half dollars and dollars, it simply tied up too much money. This is what todays collectors forget. Back in the thirties, money was darn scarce! Today people ask, "If you were collecting way back then, why didn't you collect this or that?" Well, everything is relative, when you bought something for ten dollars then, today that would be equivalent to 60 or 70 dollars and you don't see people buying coins in that price range just to let them tarnish in a drawer. We concentrated on our date sets of large cents, strictly dates and not variety simply because we didn't know varieties existed.

Some of the early members of the Madison Coin Club were Louis Berger, Earl Clauder, and 6 or 7 years later Kenneth Hawley and Russell Henderson. Louis Berger was one of the fellows that I used to meet with before the Madison club was formed. The Reverend Harris was, of course, very active. He specialized in odd and curious numismatic items and also had a large collection of Bryan money, probably the finest ever catalogued up to 1940. His odd and curious money was mailed to him by his missionary friends and contacts overseas without cost to him. Many of the really nice odd and curious pieces in my collection are from the Harris sale which was held in 1940.

We had no cases in those days; there were no A.N.A. cases available. If you wanted your own cases, you had to make them yourself or have a carpenter friend build them for you. When the Madison club set up its first display for its first show which was held at the W.M.C.A. in 1933, we had no cases in which to display our coins. We went to a local store and asked if they had an extra display case and sure enough, there in the back room we found an old upright case, the kind with two shelves and made of wood and glass. We hired a truck and loaded the 8 foot case, which was about 36 inches high and very heavy, and hauled it to the Y.M.C.A. after which it had to be carried up three flights of stairs.

Our coins were placed flat on the shelves with no signs or information of any kind. That is the way displays were done back then, and when I say displays I mean everything from a shoebox to the box that mothers hat came in. We would cut these boxes down and paste our coins to the back and sides so you could see them. Almost all of the displays consisted of large cents, two cent pieces and three cent pieces.

Ribbons were awarded; a blue ribbon for first, red for second and white for third. I feel that we should return to the ribbon system and get away from the gruesome trophies awarded today since too much intrinsic value is placed on awards won.

In judging the exhibits, back in the thirties, two people were selected from the crowd and they judged all exhibits. Very little currency was collected or displayed and Broken Bank Notes were unheard of, although we did get some confederate currency. The collecting of Legal Tender currency tied up far too much money.

During the summer we used to suspend meetings, but found that in the fall it took several months to get reorganized. This problem still holds true today. When the war came in 1941, almost all collecting stopped. Some of our members went away to war or war-related work but we continued to meet with the diminished number of people.

In our history, our club has nearly disbanded on four different occasions. We got down to 3 persons at a meeting in the 1950's. I had to take over several times to maintain the club. People can lose interest quickly, even today, and also today people move around so memberships change. We have a few university students in the club now, some quite knowledgeable and very active.

The advent of coin collecting holders and plastics have been quite an influence on the hobby, but educational emphasis didn't come along until about 1954. The "Redbook" came out in 1947 but the "Scrapbook" was with us back in the 1930's. The A.N.A. didn't have much influence on the Madison Club through the years. I signed up in 1935 along with Mr. Kretlow, his number was 4909 and mine was 4910. This was our first contact with the national organization even though the president was right here in Wisconsin at the time. The mans name was H.O. Granburg and I believe he was from Oshkosh.

In 1939 we had a joint meeting with the Milwaukee Club at the old courthouse. About 8 or 10 Milwaukee members came up. At that time we planned to have an exchange program and travel back and forth but this never worked out.

The very first Madison coin club meetings were held in the homes of its members with between 8 and 10 members usually present. We ended up meeting in about three different places because some of the members didn't have enough room in their homes. Later we met at the Earl Evelyn Saloon on Mifflin Street where we spent several years, which was followed for the next few years by a meeting place at Whitfords on Fairchild Street. We met in the Dane County Courthouse for about 4 or 5 years and at the Jackson Clinic for a couple more. After meeting at the University of Wisconsin Historical Building, the Y.M.C.A. and a tavern over the next ten years, we finally found our present home which is the Hillsdale Bank meeting room.

EDITORS NOTE:

The early history of the Madison, Wisconsin Coin Club is deeply rooted and entwined in the personal collecting experiences of A.G. (Gordon) Gill, one of the clubs founding members. Gordon is still extremely active in the hobby today, holding various local, state and national appointments while pursuing with zeal, numismatic artifacts and information.

Early in 1974, a tape recording was made of Gordon Gills reminiscences of early days in the Madison Club along with personal notes and comments on his over fifty years in coin collecting. It is from this tape that this article was taken.



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THIS AND THAT

- 1.) Due to a lack of material, this issue of the N.O.W. News only has 24 pages. Your cooperation is needed to continue with the regular 28 page issue.
- 2.) A lack of interest is not a factor with the new feature introduced in the June 4th issue of Numismatic News by Cliff Mishler. The column is called "Circulation Finds" and is probably the hottest item to hit the numismatic press in some time.
- 3.) A joint meeting of the Oshkosh Coin Club, Green Bay Coin Club and the Appleton Coin Club was held on Nov. 1st. at Reetz Supper Club in Appleton. Over 60 members were in attendance from these three clubs plus a delegation of 8 or 9 staff members of Krause Publications led by Chet Krause himself. A lunch was served and an enjoyable time was had by all.
- 4.) The Oshkosh Coin Club held its annual dinner meeting at the Hour Bar and Restaurant on the 19th of October. Approx. 50 members and their dates were in attendance. Guest speakers included Kurt Krueger and Clem Bailey.
- 5.) An N.O.W. member from New York, George Cuhaj, reported finding a counterfeit token from the Toronto Transit Commission. The token was found as he attended Toxex '77 in that Canadian city.
- 6.) The deadline for charter membership in the Numismatic Editors and Writers Society is January 1, 1978. Information concerning this organization can be obtained by writing: "N.E.W.S." Kurt Krueger P.O. Box 7, Kimberly, Wis. 54136
- 7.) Club secretaries and show chairpersons of each coin club are asked to continue to submit the information concerning their local coin shows to: Harold Collins, P.O. Box 711 Menomonee Falls, Wis. 53051 and Larry Spanbauer, 1119 So. Westfield Street, Oshkosh, Wis. 54901.

RATES FOR ADVERTISING IN THE N.O.W. NEWS

All N.O.W. members are eligible to advertise in the N.O.W. News. The ads are to be sent to the N.O.W. News Advertising Manager, and should be camera ready and in "good taste". Payment is to be made to the N.O.W. Secretary-Treasurer. This payment is to be sent in advance of publication.

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* * * * *

The deadline for receiving material for this publication is listed as follows. Please keep this deadline in mind when submitting advertising, coin club news, show dates, and all other related material.

March Issue February 1st.
June Issue..... May 1st.
September Issue..... August 1st.
December Issue..... November 1st.

*****COIN SHOWS*****

Dec. 11, 1977

Green Bay

Nicolet Coin Club
Downtowner Motel
Mike Segersin, Chairman
P.O. Box 1451
Green Bay, Wis.

Dec. 11 1977

Milwaukee

Greater Milwaukee Coin
Dealers Assoc.
1717 W. Mitchell St.
Milwaukee, Wis.

Feb. 19, 1978

Manitowoc

Clipper City Coin Club
Club Bil-Mar, Hwy. 141
Al. Hrudka, Chairman
352 N. Jackson St.
Valders, Wis. 54245

Feb. 24-26, 1978

Brookfield

Numismafest VI
Brookfield Square
Kurt R. Krueger
P.O. Box 7
Kimberly, Wis. 54136

Feb. 26, 1978

Green Bay

Nicolet Coin Club
Midway Motor Lodge
Mike Segersin, Chairman
P.O. Box 1451
Green Bay, Wis.

March 5, 1978

Appleton

Appleton Coin Club
Jim Bayer
1143 W. Cedar
Appleton, Wis. 54911

March 5&12, 1978

Kenosha

Kenosha Coin Collectors
Holiday Inn - 6th Ave
Kenosha Coin Club
P.O. Box 442
Kenosha, Wis. 53141

March 12, 1978

Waukesha

Youth Expo. Building
Next to Airport
Waukesha Coin Club
3385 Hidden Hills Drive
Brookfield, Wis. 53005

April 2, 1978

Milwaukee

South Shore Coin Club
St. Romans Parish Hall
20th & Bolivar, N.W.
C/O 5494 W. Fairy Chasm Rd.
Brown Deer, Wis. 53223

April 8&9, 1978

Racine

Racine Numis. Society
Racine Motor Inn
6th & Main Street
P.O. Box 1222
Racine, Wis. 53405

April 9, 1978

Madison

Madison Coin Club
C/O 1500 Capital Ave
Madison, Wis. 53705

April 16, 1978

Sheboygan

Sheboygan Coin Club
Emil Mazey Hall
5425 Superior Ave
John Schoma
1010 West 9th Street
Sheboygan, Wis. 53081

May 6&7, 1978

Eau Claire

N.O.W. State Show
Eau Claire Civic Center
Jerome Tillung
815 Morningside Drive
Eau Claire, Wis. 54701

Aug. 20, 1978

Baraboo

Happy Holidays

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